

FOREIGN BODY IN THE INTESTINES OF THE INSANE.—Dr. Samuel Kohn (*Medical Record*, July 22, 1882) reports the case of a patient suffering from circular insanity, who was removed from the asylum with symptoms of peritonitis; vomiting; pulse, 120; temperature, 102.5° F.; a pale, anxious countenance, etc., with general abdominal pain, but special tenderness over the right iliac region. Such attacks recurred and subsided alternately over a period of five weeks, partial obstruction occurring four times. The patient said she was "rotten inside," and could not possibly live. One day the mother of the patient came to the doctor's office and said that, that morning, in the faeces of the patient, which she had regularly examined, she had found a long, hard, spindle-shaped mass of faeces, encased in glairy mucus. Examination revealed the edges of several spoons protruding from the mass. Softening and breaking it up she found it to contain three teaspoons, which the doctor found to have every appearance of having lain lengthways in the intestine for a long time, the concavity of one fitting into the convexity of another. All abdominal symptoms disappeared. The patient declared that she swallowed them all in one day with the intention of thus ending her existence. Haematemesis was not present. This occurred in the similar cases reported in *Gaillard's Medical Journal*, vol. 1, 1880, and Poulet's "Foreign Bodies in Surgery," vol. 1, p. 137. In a case recently reported by Gock (*Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie*, Band xxxix) a silver fork, seventeen centimetres long and weighing fifty-five grammes, was found on autopsy. There were very similar symptoms to those described by Kohn, but no haematemesis. In a case reported by Van Andel (*Gazette hebdomadaire de médecine et de chirurgie*, 1866, p. 79) a woman swallowed a silver fork, in imitation of another woman who had done this for suicidal reasons, and who had not recovered from the subsequent gastrotomy. Up till about three hundred and seventeen days after the swallowing, the fork had caused no other symptom than gastric distress. It finally caused a tumor about the size of the fourth month gravid uterus, which opened spontaneously on the left side above the umbilicus, and the fork and faecal matter were therefrom removed. The case resulted in recovery. Poulet ("Foreign Bodies in Surgery," vol. 1, p. 152) reports a case where a lunatic swallowed an open knife; Hevin ("Memoires"), one where a lunatic swallowed a butcher's steel. Bryant ("Surgery") has had under observation a lunatic who swallowed a piece of iron wire; Tilanus (Didericus, *Dissert*, "Medico-chirurgica," 1848), a woman who swallowed a fork for suicidal reasons; and a similar case is reported by Chorpy (*Gazette médicale*, 1874). Pilcher (*Lancet*, June, 1866) reports an insane woman who swallowed broken crockery for suicidal reasons. Dr. Uhde reports a case where a chisel was swallowed. The psychical bases for the swallowing of these bodies are two: suicidal attempts and imperative conceptions. The latter are by far the most frequent.

to the mental condition of patients has often been discussed from a very positivistic stand-point. Even Ray ("Mental Pathology"), judicial as his mind was, pronounced very dogmatically on this subject in his discussion of the Parish will case. Dr. Rousseau in a recent article (*Annales médico-psychologiques*, November, 1882) comes, after an extended examination, to the following conclusions: First, in general, insanity and aphasia are rarely encountered associated, and the explanation of the phenomenon must vary according to whether the insanity or aphasia be first developed. Second, the lesion resulting in aphasia often leaves the intelligence intact, but more frequently this is enfeebled but not perverted. Third, lucid aphasiacs may, like other people, of course, become insane, but this is not of frequent occurrence. Fourth, as lunatics contract in time a cerebral inertia, true aphasia is not markedly evident with them, but simple loss of language may of course occur. The author has not, it will be obvious, studied the phenomena of aphasia as presented among progressive paretics who are, most likely of all, the insane to be attacked by it.

PUERPERAL INSANITY AND INSANITY OF LACTATION.—Dr. J. De Burgh Griffin (*Australian Medical Journal*, June 15, 1882) states that he has found that puerperal insanity usually assumes the form of acute mania. He claims that a premonitory stage exists, and that the disease may be aborted; in this opinion he is opposed by nearly every authority. Chloral hydrate is of much value. Puerperal insanity, Dr. Griffin finds, has a very good prognosis, and this is in accord with the usual experience; puerperal melancholia may occur, but melancholia is most frequent during the period of lactation. Tonics are of value in it, and artificial feeding is often necessary. Suicidal attempts are to be expected.

INVERSION OF THE SEXUAL SENSE.—Under this title Charcot and Magnan (*Archives de Neurologie*, Nov. 3, 1882) report six cases of imperative conceptions respecting sexual matters, which they consider allied to the sexual perversion of the Germans. The first case was that of a masturbator, a physician, who felt drawn to the anal region of females and *clothed* children for sexual gratification; the naked bodies were repugnant to him. He was disgusted with the idea of pæderasty and sexual intercourse; there was strong heredity in the case. In the second case there was also strong heredity, and the patient felt sexually attracted by the nails of women's shoes, concerning which he constructed elaborate romances and masturbated while gloating over these. The third case also had hereditary defect, and felt sexually attracted by white table-cloths, several of which he stole and was punished for so doing. The fourth patient, also a victim of hereditary defect, was unable to copulate with a woman unless her hair was dressed in a certain way, and she had a night-cap on. The